

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...after this...after this whole process is in place.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Vrtiska, I completely agree with you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. I'd like to pause here one second and introduce a guest of the Legislature. Under the south balcony, sitting over...standing by the table we have the wife of Senator Lee Klein. As I understand, she heard that Lee had taken a new day job and she just wanted to check it out down here today. Sharon, can you wave and be recognized. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I guess my...my first question and my overwhelming question is, why do we have to create two new bureaucracies to do this? In talking with Senator Jensen, he's very adamant about looking at the codes and how the things that we have mandated in, for instance, the state electrical code have changed the cost of housing. And quite frankly, at that time, I think that's when we should have questioned what this change in the state electrical code was going to do to the cost of affordable housing in the state of Nebraska. In fact, every bill we pass here probably in some way contributes to the unaffordability of the cost of housing in the state of Nebraska because we take more and more taxes away from the families, which means they have less and less to be able to afford housing, good housing. Just for your information, we have 107 public housing authorities in the state of Nebraska. Now that's just federal housing authorities in the state of Nebraska. And some of these are residential, some of these are high rises, they're a variety of things. We also have Section 8 authority, which is subsidized housing in the state of Nebraska. I think we have others, but they don't come to my mind right now. And, Senator Lynch, I thought what you said was...was very appropriate. And, in fact, I have a bill that I introduced this year, LB 1310, if you want to look at it, that requires that kind of subsidized housing to be built equally in every census tract. And that's what we need to be doing. And I don't think it's that we don't have money, particularly millions of dollars from the federals.